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CEPPS/IRI Quarterly Report: April 1 to June 30, 2005

Indonesia: Effective Electoral Process and Peaceful Political Transition
USAID Cooperative Agreement No. 497-A-00-03-00023-00

Project dates: May 1, 2003 to March 31, 2005 (Cost extension to September 30, 2005)
Total budget: $2,915,000.00 -- Expenses to date: $2,822,745.76

I. SUMMARY

In April 2005, the International Republican Institute (IRI) received a six-month unsolicited cost extension for its CEPPS program from USAID/Indonesia, extending the program's end-date from March 31, 2005 to September 30, 2005. As noted in the cost extension request, IRI's programmatic activities during the quarter were focused on addressing local election and governance training needs as well as continuing its e-governance pilot program and website resource maintenance.

In preparation for Indonesia's direct local elections (pilkada) which began in June 2005, IRI provided training to parties, candidates, and campaign teams. Training was targeted at party campaign team leaders and focused on strategies to help candidates develop and deliver campaign messages to the local voting public. IRI also focused on providing poll watcher training to party activists to mitigate irregularities or inter-party clashes on the day of the elections. Most notably, IRI conducted poll-witness training for over 800 party activists from six sub-districts (kecematan) in the Tabanan district (kabupaten) of Bali which had experienced clashes between party factions during the 2004 General Elections. On the day of the election, June 25, 2005, IRI's pilkada observation team witnessed no violence at the polling stations it visited in Tabanan.

IRI also provided programmatic support to the ongoing reconstruction effort in Aceh through a series of governance trainings with the provincial parliament (DPRD). Following two field assessments conducted in February and March 2005, IRI held a workshop in Banda Aceh for party factions in the DPRD on the role of political parties and elected officials in a post-disaster reconstruction environment on April 20 and 21. The interactive workshop featured foreign trainers who had direct experience with reconstruction efforts in areas affected by large-scale natural disasters. The two-day event was attended by 75 participants including elected officials, civil society leaders, and party activists. On June 11, IRI held a follow-up workshop for legislators from the four districts of Aceh that were most affected by the tsunami. At the request

of the legislators, the workshop focused on the legal considerations of the coming local direct elections.

In addition to election and governance training, IRI continued its supplemental activities that were initiated in the later stages of the original grant. These experimental programs, which were developed in close cooperation with USAID/Indonesia, include an e-governance program and an online training material resource on the www.iri-indonesia.com website.

In April and May 2005, IRI continued its e-literacy training program for elected officials and members of the administrative (Secretariat) staff in the Yogyakarta DPRD. In total, 167 Secretariat staff members and legislators received computer and internet skills training in preparation for the launch of the DPRD website at the end of July 2005. In May, IRI also trained 15 members of the Secretariat and five party faction members on the technical aspects of website management after the participants were assigned to be official website operators. Most notably, IRI conducted an e-governance study mission to Hong Kong with seven delegates from the DPRD from April 12-15. The delegates toured the Hong Kong Legislative Council and received in-depth briefings on how the Council uses Internet technology (IT) to interact with constituents. After the study tour, the delegates formed an e-governance task force in the DPRD which has expanded to include the chairman of the Secretariat and the head of the DPRD IT department.

Updates to www.iri-indonesia.org during this quarter focused on providing political party activists and elected officials with training tools selected from specific IRI programs. These were chosen to reflect the interests of website visitors and seminar participants as measured in last quarter's web log analysis. Part of that analysis indicated visitor interest had shifted from a focus on the 2004 General and Presidential elections to details of regional administration and its corresponding legislation. Accordingly, site additions centered on IRI programs concerning regional governance. Moreover, IRI continued to add governance training tools drawn from Institute seminars and workshops to www.iri-indonesia.org.

Training presentations were also developed to reach an audience not limited to specific seminars. For example, on May 25, IRI held a training in Yogyakarta on legal considerations of election complaint procedures. IRI then developed the Yogyakarta training into a guide for party activists which it made available on its website in response to requests from parties in various provinces for clarification on the sometimes contradictory body of local election law. This was joined by a presentation and a handbook on the rights and responsibilities of party poll watchers during local elections, which were specifically produced to be downloaded and printed by party activists for their poll-watcher trainings.

II. BACKGROUND

IRI's nine years of experience in Indonesia has positioned the Institute to work effectively with Indonesia's political parties and elected leaders to build the skills and internal structures needed to address the challenges inherent in democratic transition. IRI began work in Indonesia in 1996

through a program funded by the National Endowment for Democracy in support of small and medium-sized businesses. Once student protests toppled the Suharto regime in May of 1998, IRI began to work directly with Indonesia's political parties. IRI set up a permanent office in Jakarta in October 1998 and has maintained an active presence in the country since.

Building on its initial success working with political parties, IRI has expanded its democracy-assistance work in Indonesia to include governance, public opinion research, and poll-witness training programs. Moreover, IRI offered extensive campaign and candidate training programs in preparation for the 1999 and 2004 national elections. Following the December 2004 tsunami, IRI conducted field assessments in Aceh and held an historic two-day workshop in April 2005 which brought together legislators in the provincial DPRD, civil society leaders, and political party activists to discuss the roles and responsibilities of legislators in the reconstruction process. Accordingly, IRI remains committed to providing timely and appropriate assistance to advance the process of democratic transition in Indonesia.

III. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

USAID Program Element 4.2: Elections-Related Political Party Development
<u>IRI Activity 1</u>: **Provide campaign training for candidates from Indonesia's major political parties with an effort to include women and youth.**

In preparation for Indonesia's direct local elections (pilkada) which began in June 2005, IRI provided training to parties, candidates, and campaign teams. Training was targeted at party campaign team leaders and focused on strategies to help candidates deliver campaign messages to the local voting public as well as understand local election procedures.

On April 13, IRI held a training in Medan, North Sumatra on campaign techniques and strategy which was conducted by the former Governor of Utah, Olene Walker who was visiting Indonesia as the guest of the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Department. The 35 participants were comprised of campaign teams from three kabupaten: Sergai, Deli Serdang, and Medan City. The political parties that were represented amongst the participants included Golkar, PKS, and PDI-P. The training, which focused on issues such as fundraising, message development, and campaign management, was notable for the high level of interaction and discussion between the participants and Governor Walker.

IRI conducted campaign training in Denpasar, Bali on May 17 in preparation for the June pilkada. The 89 participants were comprised of candidates, campaign team members, and officials from Panwas (Election Supervisory Committee) and the KPUD (Regional Election Agency). In cooperation with Panwas and the KPUD, IRI facilitated a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the three campaign teams who were preparing to contest the mayoral election. Under the MoU, the campaign teams agreed to conduct a peaceful election.

On May 28, IRI held a one-day training on local elections in Sleman, Yogyakarta. The training was attended by the chairman of the KPUD, Panwas officials, and the four campaign teams who were preparing to contest the Sleman district election. The training focused on the role and legal basis for party witnesses and was conducted by IRI, Panwas, KPUD, and the chairman of KPI-Yogyakarta (Indonesian Broadcasting Commission-Yogyakarta).

IRI Activity 2: Conduct polls to further influence political parties and candidates in the use of public opinion research in the design of issue-based campaign platforms. The polls accompanied training in regard to uses and application of polling, as well as in the design and conduct of polling.

Project activities accomplished in earlier quarters of this grant.

IRI Activity 3: Training of party poll watchers in over 400,000 polling stations across Indonesia

From June 13-18, IRI conducted poll witness training for over 800 party activists in six sub-districts (Pupuan, Selemadeg Timur, Selemadeg Tengah, Selemadeg Barat, Kediri, and Tabanan) in the Tabanan district of Bali. Tabanan was the site of several clashes between Golkar and PDI-P members during the 2004 General Elections. The training was requested by the Koalisi Bersatu Membangun Tabanan (Coalition for Developing Tabanan) which is comprised of Golkar and several smaller political parties. KMBT provided the room and other facilities for the trainings which were led by IRI and officials from the local election committee.

The June 13 poll witness training was held in Pupuan sub-district and was attended by 200 party activists. Similarly, 200 participants attended the June 14 training in Selemadeg Timur sub-district. On June 15 and 16, 100 party members were trained as poll-watchers in both Selemadeg Tengah and Selemadeg Barat, respectively. Kediri sub-district was the site of the June 17 training which drew 140 participants. The final day of training was held in Tabanan sub-district and was attended by 100 party activists.

USAID Program Element 4.4: Pre-election Preparations for a Peaceful Political Transition

IRI Activity 4: Avert electoral violence and fraud through creation of provincial councils of political party leaders to facilitate communication between parties and development of a local code of ethics to act as a pre-emptive measure to mitigate violence by party militia.

Project activities accomplished in earlier quarters of this grant.

IRI Activity 5: Preparations for a Peaceful Transition/Governance Training

IRI held three governance trainings and two workshops this quarter which drew 100 participants. The five trainings were held in Banda Aceh.

On April 4 and 5, IRI held three single-party trainings on legal drafting for members of the PKS, PD, and PBR factions in Aceh's DPRD. All three factions had separately requested IRI to facilitate a discussion on how the DPRD should proceed in order to make the blueprint for Aceh's reconstruction, which was released in April 2005 by the Indonesian government, a provincial regulation (perda). Although the blueprint is necessary for the reconstruction process to move forward, it has no legal basis, particularly in relation to Aceh's special autonomy status. The party factions hope that by making the blueprint a perda, full implementation of the plan will be more likely to occur.

On April 20 and 21, IRI held a two-day workshop in Banda Aceh entitled "What Role for Political Parties in Aceh's Reconstruction?" The workshop, which followed two IRI field assessments conducted in February and March, focused on the role of elected officials and political parties in a reconstruction environment. Paul Berg, the U.S. Consul General-designate in Medan, and IRI Vice President Liz Dugan opened the workshop and introduced the panel of trainers who led the two-day workshop. The trainers included Cheryl Moore, District Director in the Office of U.S. Representative Tom Feeney; Andrew Poat, Director of Government Relations for the City of San Diego; and Tarik Harun, Project Coordinator with the Coastal Association for Social Transformation Trust in Bangladesh. Participants also received a recorded message from Alvaro Patino, former mayor of Armenia, Colombia which suffered a catastrophic earthquake in 1999.

The first day of the workshop was held in the provincial parliament (DPRD) building and was attended by a majority of elected officials and party factions in the parliament. The event marked the first time a foreign non-governmental organization had been invited to hold a democracy-strengthening workshop in the DPRD building and the first time since 2002 that IRI was able to conduct a multi-party workshop in Banda Aceh on an explicitly political topic. The first day focused on the roles and responsibilities of elected officials as the visible faces of recovery and reconstruction efforts following a disaster.

The second day of the workshop was held at the Sultan Hotel and focused on communication planning and constituent service. A documentary video produced by the non-governmental organization Common Ground Indonesia was used as a springboard for a discussion on ways to respond to the issues that ordinary people care about such as corruption, unemployment, and education versus the issues that the parties think are important such as local elections and internal politics. In total, the two-day event was attended by 75 participants including legislators, civil society leaders, and political party faction representatives (Golkar, PAN, PKS, PBR, PD, PPP, and PDI-P).

On June 11, IRI held a follow-up workshop for legislators from the four districts of Aceh that were most affected by the tsunami (Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Aceh Barat, and Aceh Utara). At

the request of the legislators, the workshop focused on the legal considerations of the coming local direct elections. The training included discussions on campaign strategy as well as the legal aspects of the coming local elections. Four political parties (PAN, PKS, PBB, and PPP) were represented by the eleven participants in attendance.

Additional IRI Program Activities:

E-governance program

IRI continued to implement the second phase of its e-governance pilot program during this quarter in conjunction with the Yogyakarta DPRD and Secretariat. Phase II of the e-governance initiative, *DPRD Information System Development: Brainware and Administrator Training,* focused on two activities: (1) a continuation of e-literacy training with an emphasis on the ability to maintain the DPRD website, (2) the creation of a task force to serve as a liaison to IRI and continue the e-governance program in Yogyakarta after the period of this grant.

In April and May 2005, IRI continued its e-literacy training program for members of the DPRD Secretariat and the five major party factions (PDI-P, Golkar, PAN, PKS, PKB). Exxindo, an Indonesian firm, had been contracted to carry out the training. In total, 167 Secretariat staff members and legislators received computer and internet skills training during this quarter in preparation for the launch of the DPRD website at the end of July 2005. On May 26, IRI held a training for 15 members of the Secretariat and five party faction members on the technical aspects of website management. These party and Secretariat members will be responsible for updating the Yogyakarta DPRD website after its launch.

In preparation for the creation of an e-governance task force in the Yogyakarta DPRD, IRI conducted a study mission to Hong Kong with seven delegates from the DPRD from April 12-15. Members of the task force and study mission were selected at the end of March, one from each of the five major party factions, as well as the vice-chairman of the DPRD and the head of the Secretariat research department. The delegates toured the Hong Kong Legislative Council and received in-depth briefings on how the Council uses information technology (IT) to interact with constituents.

After returning from the study tour, the delegates formed an e-governance task force in the DPRD which expanded to include the Chairman of the Secretariat and the head of the DPRD IT department. On May 4, the task force met with Secretariat members as a follow-up to meetings with IRI concerning the organization of the DPRD website. The Chairman of the Secretariat subsequently issued a 'letter of authorization' officially tasking 15 members of the Secretariat including department members, commission members, and members of the DPRD leadership to manage the DPRD website. As mentioned above, these 15 members of the Secretariat and five party members from each of the major factions together comprise the website management team.

IRI consulted regularly with the task force and website management team throughout June in preparation for the official launch of the website at the end of July.

www.iri-indonesia.org

Updates to www.iri-indonesia.org during this quarter focused on providing political party activists and elected officials with training tools selected from specific IRI programs. These were chosen to reflect the interests of website visitors and seminar participants as measured in last quarter's web log analysis. Part of that analysis indicated visitor interest had shifted from a focus on the general and presidential elections to details of regional administration and its corresponding legislation. Accordingly, site additions centered on IRI programs concerning regional governance. IRI also continued to add governance training tools drawn from Institute seminars and workshops to www.iri-indonesia.org.

Visitor profiles from the last quarter indicated an interest in the upcoming regional direct elections. This was buttressed by requests from political parties – in-person and online – for IRI to conduct trainings on regional election law as well as the responsibilities of party poll watchers. While IRI did not coordinate a nation-wide party witness training program as it did during the 2004 General Elections, the Institute was still able to provide party activists throughout Indonesia with the necessary tools via the website in two ways: first, by creating web-specific training presentations on topics of concern to political parties in the local elections and, second, by providing the most up-to-date legislation.

Legislation included Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, and Government regulations covering topics such as legal complaint procedures, independent and political party candidacy requirements, and the execution of local elections. In addition, during this quarter IRI began to introduce short summaries of important legislation so as to highlight their significance. For example, when Supreme Court Regulation 1/2005 concerning the legal procedures for filing complaints was amended, IRI included a summary of essential changes along with the full, official legislation on its website.

Training presentations were also developed to reach an audience not limited to specific seminars. For example, on May 25, IRI held a training in Yogyakarta on legal considerations of election complaint procedures. IRI then developed the Yogyakarta training into a guide for party activists which it made available on its website in response to requests from parties in various provinces for clarification on the sometimes contradictory body of local election law. This was joined by a presentation and a handbook on the rights and responsibilities of party poll watchers during local elections, which were specifically produced to be downloaded and printed by party activists for their poll watcher trainings.

IV. RESULTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IRI Objective 1: Political parties conduct issue-oriented campaigns that respond effectively to voter concerns.

Building on IRI's successful completion of this activity in the second quarter of 2004, USAID/Indonesia's cost-extension allowed IRI to revisit this objective in relation to the direct local elections which began in June 2005. IRI provided training to candidates, party activists, and campaign teams and focused on strategies to help candidates develop and deliver campaign messages to the local voting public. IRI also focused on providing poll watcher training to party activists to mitigate irregularities or inter-party clashes on the day of the election.

April's campaign training in Medan, North Sumatra which focused on issues such as fundraising, message development, and campaign management was notable for the high level of interaction and discussion between the participants and former Governor Olene Walker of Utah.

IRI's campaign training in Denpasar, Bali in May culminated in the signing of an MoU between three opposing campaign teams who were preparing to contest the local mayoral election. Under the MoU, the campaign teams agreed to conduct a peaceful election. No serious irregularities or incidents of violence were reported during the June 25, 2005 election. Similarly, IRI's local election and poll watcher training in Sleman, Yogyakarta in May, which was attended by the chairman of the KPUD, Panwas officials, and the four campaign teams who were preparing to contest the Sleman district election, was a success. IRI's local facilitator in Yogyakarta observed the election at the end of June and reported that party witnesses were present at each polling station and the proceedings appeared to be without incident.

In June, IRI also conducted poll witness training for over 800 party activists from six sub-districts in the Tabanan district of Bali which had experienced clashes between party factions during the 2004 General Elections. On the day of the election, June 25, 2005, IRI's pilkada observation team witnessed no violence at the polling stations it visited in Tabanan. However, initial reports indicated logistical problems and a low voter turnout.

IRI Objective 2: Women and youth expand their participation and influence in political parties.

Five governance-related training seminars were held by IRI in the second quarter of 2005 with a total attendance of 100. Of the 100 participants, 16 were women, or 16% of the total. While the percentage in the first quarter of 2005 was slightly higher at 17%, the latest figure is double the number of last quarter of 2004 which was 8%.

Out of 14 total participants, no women were present at the three single-party trainings on legal drafting held on April 4 and 5 in Banda Aceh. However, 15 women out of a total of 75 participants attended the two-day workshop on the role of political parties in Aceh's

reconstruction in April. One woman attended the follow-up workshop in June out of eleven total participants.

In addition to governance trainings, IRI held four trainings that addressed political party needs for the direct local elections which began in June. Three trainings focused on campaign strategies and the legal aspects of direct local election while the fourth was a multi-day poll witness training. The first training, held on April 13, had 35 participants, 12 of whom were women. The second and third trainings which were held in May were attended by 89 and 25 participants, respectively. Five women attended the second training and three attended the third. The six-day poll witness training in Tabanan, Bali in June was attended by 840 participants, 27 of whom were women. Accordingly, out of 989 total participants in the four election-related trainings, 47 were women or 5.5%.

IRI Objective 5: Peaceful and effective transitions of power take place in the DPD and in the provincial legislatures of IRI's program provinces.

As noted above, governance activities held by IRI this quarter focused on addressing the training needs of elected officials and party factions in Aceh's provincial legislature. IRI held three governance trainings and two governance workshops in Banda Aceh which drew 100 participants.

IRI's two field assessments conducted in February and March 2005 resulted in requests from members of the PKS, PD, and PBR factions in Aceh's DPRD for IRI to facilitate a discussion on legal drafting. The party factions were interested in understanding what steps the provincial parliament should take in order to make the blueprint for Aceh's reconstruction in to law. After participating in IRI training in April, the legislators were able to develop strategies to advance their agenda in the DPRD. Moreover, PKS legislators from the districts of Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar have requested a governance and legal drafting training for their faction members after learning about IRI's April training session with their colleagues in the DPRD.

The two-day workshop IRI held in April in cooperation with the DPRD was another direct result of IRI's two field assessments in the first quarter of 2005. Due to IRI's close coordination with the speaker of the DPRD, first day of the workshop was attended by a majority of legislators in the DPRD. The event also marked the first time a foreign non-governmental organization had been invited to hold a democracy-strengthening workshop in the DPRD building.

The workshop, which focused on the roles of elected officials in reconstruction efforts and the importance of constituent service, was viewed as a success based on the fact that IRI received specific requests from party faction leaders in the DPRD to do a follow-up workshop for legislators from the four districts of Aceh that were most affected by the tsunami (Banda Aceh, Aceh Besar, Aceh Barat, and Aceh Utara). The follow-up workshop was held in early June.

Another indicator of the success of the April workshop was the fact that Aceh DPRD legislators have asked IRI to facilitate a meeting between the DPRD and foreign/domestic donors. The meeting, which will be held in the next quarter, will be aimed at learning the logistical and budgetary aspects of the donors' efforts in the reconstruction process as well as what donors expect the DPRD to do within that process. The meeting is to be in preparation for an IRI-facilitated town hall meeting between elected leadership, local NGOs, universities, and regional stakeholders regarding reconstruction.

Additional IRI Program Activity Results/Accomplishments

E-governance

During the second quarter of 2005, e-governance programming in Yogyakarta continued to exceed initial expectations in both tangible results and the level of commitment demonstrated by the Yogyakarta DPRD. In Phase I of the e-governance initiative which was completed during the previous quarter, 39 legislators and 26 Secretariat members received e-literacy training over a span of ten weeks. However, in the first five weeks of the second quarter of 2005, 167 Secretariat staff members and legislators received computer and internet skills training in preparation for the launch of the DPRD website at the end of July 2005.

The IRI-led study mission to Hong Kong with seven delegates from the DPRD in April received coverage in two local newspapers (*Kedaulatan Rakyat* and *Bernas*), including a comic design. After returning to Yogyakarta, the delegates formed an e-governance task force which then expanded from its original team of participants to officially include the Chairman of the Secretariat and the head of the DPRD IT department. After consultations with IRI over organization and oversight of the DPRD website in May, the Chairman of the Secretariat issued a 'letter of authorization' officially tasking 15 members of the Secretariat – including department members, commission members, and members of the DPRD leadership – to manage the DPRD website. The issuance of the letter was delayed due to confusion over the 'honorarium' typically awarded those tasked with extra duties. It is notable, however, that the task force played a central role in managing a compromise. These 15 members of the Secretariat and 5 party members from each of the major factions together comprise the website management team. The management team and the task force have been integral in preparing for the official launch of the DPRD website in the next quarter.

The DPRD also was successful in getting its IT budget approved by the Governor's office in June. Approximately US$65,000 will be divided equally between the purchase of 19 computers and providing the DPRD building with wireless connection. However, IRI and local tech firm Exindo believe that the sum is far greater than necessary for the individual line items and likely will recommend alternative allocation of funding.

Impact from the e-governance program was also evident outside of Yogyakarta in this quarter. Legislators in Madiun, East Java are planning to use technology to increase public participation and make government services more efficient. Five Madiun legislators attended an IRI seminar in Yogyakarta on March 5th during which IRI trained on constituent outreach and public participation using e-governance. In May, these legislators asked IRI to guide the Madiun DPRD in writing a one-year work plan to increase public participation via ICT (information and communication technology). In addition, the Madiun legislature approved a budget to create a 'one-stop service' that would reduce paperwork, cost, and time for citizens who, for example, would like to renew or purchase a license. Moreover, the budget would cover the cost of an intranet for two years. The DPRD plans to consult public opinion before beginning the project.

www.iri-indonesia.org

Website activity increased by 42% since progress was last reported at the conclusion of the first quarter of 2005. The site now accommodates an average of 99 visits per day, a significant increase from the average of 67 measured during the last quarter. Weekday visitor activity saw the greatest increase from 70 visitors on average per weekday to 105 visitors during this quarter. That represents an increase of 50% and an indication that the site is reaching a more professional audience.

Most encouraging, however, are trends exhibited by website visitors. The website was created with the intention of providing training materials from IRI programs to political party activists unable to participate in IRI seminars. During the first year of the website's existence, information concerning the 2004 General and Presidential elections – newspaper articles, press releases, counting results, etc – were more popular downloads than training materials such as party poll-watcher resources. This indicated that site visitors tended to be from a range of backgrounds, likely without the same priorities as political party activists.

However, beginning in late 2004, the website began to receive visits from those more interested in materials of significance to political party activists as opposed to the average web browser. Last quarter's website analysis substantiated the supposition that visitors access the website with specific objectives in mind. This quarter's website analysis specifies these as visitors who access the site with the particular objectives of party activists.

For example, the top 5 pages visited, excluding the home page, are:

1. Communications: Plans and Strategies
2. Legislation
3. Direct Local Elections
4. IRI Training Materials
5. IRI Resources

The top 5 files downloaded are:

1. Legislation concerning legal drafting
2. IRI party poll watcher manuals
3. Legal considerations in drafting legislation (IRI presentation)
4. Decree-in-lieu-of-law to Law No. 6/2005 on the Direct Election of Local Administration Heads
5. IRI DIY Oct 2004 polling presentation

50% of the top 20 page visits are to those that specifically contain IRI training materials or seminar resources. While on one hand this result is unsurprising given that IRI prioritizes the political party training aspect of the site, it is important to note that this finding indicates that the majority of users visit the site with the intention of downloading or accessing training materials (as opposed to merely browsing), and that the percentage of such users has increased since last quarter.

This supposition is supported by a reduction in one-time visitors, despite a 42% increase in overall visits; one-time visitors have reduced by 25%. This is a significant achievement with several implications: first, that more and more visitors are returning to the site after visiting a first time, which would account for the fact that 78% of top entry pages are not through the home page; second, that although site visits have increased, that quantity is not due to random web browsing; and third, that a reduction in web browsing again suggests the majority of visitors return purposefully to access training tools.

These training tools continue to be accessed predominantly in Bahasa Indonesia. 99% of the top downloads and 97% of the top page visits are conducted in Indonesian. In addition, all user queries sent via email through the site were written in Bahasa Indonesia. These queries tended to center on questions concerning regional direct election legislation.

Finally, during this quarter, IRI began to track the geographical distribution of website visitors. However, the results are not concrete evidence of visitors' physical location. Data is determined by visitors' IP addresses, which are not necessarily in the came city as the visitor, nor necessarily the same country. Despite this, the results are still able to provide useful information because they suggest general visitor locations. From the results, the top Indonesian cities accessing www.iri-indonesia.org are: (1) Jakarta (2) Bandung (3) Yogyakarta (4) Surabaya (5) Bekasi and (6) Medan.

V. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In response to USAID/Indonesia's "Unsolicited Application for Cost Extension" dated April 4, 2005, the International Republican Institute (IRI) requested approval of a six-month cost extension for its CEPPS/IRI cooperative agreement, Indonesia: Effective Electoral Process and Peaceful Political Transition program which was scheduled to end March 31, 2005. The

approved cost extension extended the program to September 30, 2005. Accordingly, IRI will complete the current agreement at the conclusion of the next quarter (July-September 2005).

Direct Elections – IRI will continue to train political parties to help their candidates develop strategies and skills to identify, understand, and show responsiveness to local community needs in preparation for the next round of local elections in September. Training will focus on crafting and delivering effective campaign messages based on the candidates' understanding of local community needs and conditions. IRI also will offer poll-watcher training when appropriate to mitigate irregularities or inter-party clashes on election day.

Aceh – As a follow up to its series of workshops on post-crisis governance in Aceh in April and June, IRI will hold a meeting between the Aceh DPRD and foreign/domestic donors to discuss opportunities for cooperation in the reconstruction process. The meeting is to be in preparation for an IRI-facilitated town hall meeting between elected leadership, local NGOs, universities, and regional stakeholders regarding reconstruction. Additional governance and direct election programming specific to Aceh also will be considered during this final quarter.

E-governance – Party factions, individual legislators, and Secretariat members will continue to prepare the Yogyakarta DPRD website for the public. The web launching event is scheduled to take place July 30 in Yogyakarta and will be attended by political parties, NGOs, local leadership, media, and the Governor's office, including the deputy governor charged with Yogyakarta's 'cyber-province' mission. IRI also will conduct IT and constituent outreach trainings for DPRD before full oversight of the website is formally transferred to the DPRD during the final quarter of the grant.

Online course/www.iri-indonesia.org – IRI will continue to refine and improve the online course before making it available to elected officials and party members on IRI Indonesia's website. In addition, IRI will continue to update the IRI Indonesia website with timely information and topical training materials, particularly with regards to direct local elections.